

16. (Amended) The method of claim 13 further including the step of providing a modular assembly for positioning the plurality of pin dogs and for moving the flitch into engagement with the dogs to mount the flitch on the modular assembly, the modular assembly being removably received by the flitch table.

17. (Amended) The method of claim 16 wherein the flitch table includes means for retaining the modular assembly in position for slicing veneer from the flitch mounted on the modular assembly.

34. (Amended) The method of claim 33 wherein the plurality of dogs have projecting surfaces and their relative movement with respect to the flitch engages the flitch.

35. (Amended) The method of claim 34 wherein the flitch is moved for engagement with the plurality of dogs.

36. (Amended) The method of claim 34 wherein the flitch is moved longitudinally along its central axis.

37. (Amended) The method of claim 34 wherein the staylog is provided with a further plurality of dogs, and the flitch is provided with a further plurality of holes positioned to receive the further plurality of dogs, and the further plurality of dogs are moved to engage the flitch and the first plurality of dogs.

#### REMARKS

First, Applicant understands that the claims currently pending in this application have been renumbered as claim numbers 13-17 and 33-38 and that claims 14-18 originally and erroneously numbered in the original application, including the amended claims 14 and 15, are now claims 13-17, and that the new claims numbered 34-38 in the Preliminary Amendment filed August 19, 1999, are now claims 33-37, and that the claim number 39 as filed with the Preliminary Amendment mailed February 1, 2000, is now treated as claim 38 of this application. Applicant thanks the Examiner for his correction of the claim numbering of this application.

In response to the rejection under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112, Applicant has amended claim 13 at line 2 by replacing "dog" with --dogs--. Applicant has amended claim 13 at line 5 to recite --the peripheries of said holes forming a plurality of engagement surfaces--.